

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 3 - No. 59

Greensburg, Indiana

March 23, 1974

THE COURTHOUSE ISSUE

Election this fall!!!

* * *

WE APOLOGIZE! For failing to proof-read Sherman Boyl's timely poem- THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS- before it went to the printer. The author's name was omitted and the reference should have been Boyl not Boyer. It couldn't have been worse! We are sorry indeed.

* * *

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Mrs. Josephene Pearce
Mrs. Letha Meixner
Miss Martha Linegar
Russell Gray
Mrs. Merritt Thornburg
James Gaynor
Mrs. James Gaynor
Mrs. Mary Patterson
Mary Ann Schneider
Robert Conwell - Westport
Mrs. Robert Conwell - Westport
Miss Sarah Jane Eaton - Anderson
Dr. John Gilchrist - Indpls.
Mrs. John Gilchrist - Indpls.
Mrs. Iola R. Ross - Xenia, Ohio
Hubert Wickens
Mrs. Henry (Ann L.) Oliger
Miss Florence Emsweller
James B. Ross - Xenia, Ohio 792

OCCASION: Spring Meeting

DATE: Sunday afternoon
March 31st, 1974
2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Decatur Co. Community
Artists at 515 N. Broadway
Greensburg, Indiana

SPEAKER: Mr. Jerry Easley

A native of Greensburg, Mr. Easley is a Civil War buff whose interest goes back to his maternal great-grandfather who was a member of the famous 7th. Indiana. Jerry, formerly with Sears & Roebuck, is now executive-secretary of the Greensburg Chamber of Commerce. He served in the air force in WW2. Married, he has two children. An active member of the Indianapolis Civil War Round-table, he will discuss his favorite topic- DECATUR COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

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THE BULLETIN with this issue goes into the third volume. It has survived for fifteen years- the first issue being dated May 26, 1959. James B. Ross of Xenia, Ohio is the seven hundred ninety-second member to be enrolled. Likewise three hundred seventy copies of this issue will be mailed. In spite of rising costs, the membership fee has been kept at one dollar. Husbands and wives, if both are members, receive one copy which has so far made it possible to keep our heads above water.

NAPOLEON- Pioneer Junction of
The New Purchase

By Herbert R. Hill
Editor of OUTDOOR INDIANA

The Ripley County village of Napoleon was the hub or nave of important roads leading in every direction throughout the settlement years of South-eastern and Central Indiana.

It was originally platted on February 9, 1820, as the TOWN OF NAPOLIAN, although it certainly had no access to a broad bay or a blue sea, as does the ancient Italian city of Naples. But in physical concept it became a diminutive frontier emulator of Napoleon Bonaparte's grand scheme for reconstructing Paris by establishing control nuclei with traffic ways radiating from each of them.

The Corsican who became dictator of France used the PLACE AND AVENUE layout to mount cannon or swivel guns commanding all approaches and thus ominously to discourage riot and rebellion. The Hoosier pioneer town, laid out after the end of the WAR OF 1812 brought peace to the New Frontier, served as a center for homesteading families proceeding into the Indiana wilderness.

In 1818, by the TREATY OF ST. MARY'S, the Delaware Indians swapped the vast territory called THE NEW PURCHASE for new and more primitive reservations beyond the Mississippi River. This enabled a rapid influx into Central Indiana of settlers arriving from Dixie and also from the Middle Atlantic states.

Soon the traffic through the town became two-way as the settlers raised their first crops and began sending agricultural produce Southward to market centers and transshipment ports on the Ohio River. Even before the French Emperor died in 1822 the Hoosier populace was calling NAPOLIAN by its subsequent name of NAPOLEON.

The first survey of what is now Ripley County was made in 1807 by Stephen Ludlow. Settlers began arriving in the Southwestern part of the area as early as 1814, coming up from riverside Madison or Vevay.

Indiana Territory became the State of Indiana in 1816, and the new General Assembly promptly created present-day Ripley County. Most of Hoosierland's 92 counties are named for a hero of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION or the WAR OF 1812, or else bear an Indian name. General Eleazer Wheelock Ripley was a popular leader in the latter war, having occupied Fort Erie in Ontario. His grandfather founded Dartmouth College.

Ripley County was divided into three townships on May 11, 1818. But as the population rapidly multiplied the townships were rearranged into five 18 months later, and in August, 1821, were reorganized into eight. As new neighborhoods developed so did their local entities. Versailles, platted in 1819, was made the seat of the new County. Napoleon is the next oldest organized community in Ripley.

The Proprietor of NAPOLIAN--that is, the original land-owner--was William Wilson. He was born in South Carolina on October 11, 1783. His father, Isaac

Wilson, was born in South Carolina in 1747. An Ulster Presbyterian, he sired a large family--eight children by his first wife and nine by his second.

Isaac Wilson was one of the signers in 1772 of the WATAUGA ASSOCIATION PETITION, which was a covenant of North Carolina frontiersmen in what is now the Watauga Valley of Eastern Tennessee. It was the first written governmental constitution of settlers West of the mountains, and probably the first by any group of American-born free men.

The Wilsons were typical of the new Nation's frontiersmen, moving again and again as sharp-shooting lawyers challenged the validity of their land titles, and hoping always that in the wilderness ahead they would find more productive soil, better neighbors, and a chance to start all over again in the quest for a favorable foothold.

Isaac Wilson, having moved from South Carolina to the Watauga country, next took his family Northward to Franklin County, Kentucky. This was East of the Falls community of Louisville and some 35 miles South of Indiana's Switzerland County, whose seat is Vevay. Then in 1809 Isaac Wilson crossed over into Dearborn County, seeking yet another new home in that wedge of Hoosier soil which had been ceded by the Indians to the Federal Government in 1795 by the GREENVILLE TREATY.

In 1820 Isaac Wilson moved again, pausing at son William's cabin at Napoleon before proceeding to the site of Indianapolis in Marion County. Earlier that year this site had been selected as the new State Capital. (See OUTDOOR INDIANA, March, 1970.)

When the sale of Indianapolis lots began on October 10, 1821, at the cabin of frontiersman Mathias Nowland, Isaac Wilson bought a lot at the Northwest corner of what was to become Statehouse Square when the State Government finally was moved to Indianapolis in 1825.

Isaac Wilson, seemingly tireless with his felling axe, built a log cabin in the new clearing for his home, and then on nearby Fall Creek constructed the first water-powered grist mill outside the original Indianapolis Mile Square.

When Isaac Wilson died on November 12, 1823, his will is believed to have been the first recorded in Marion County. He was buried near White River on the present site of Riley Children's Hospital, now a part of the new Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis campus.

William Wilson had preceded his father to Indiana Territory. He built a blockhouse on the West Fork of the Whitewater River six miles above Brookville as a refuge for settlers when Indian marauders were menacing. (See OUTDOOR INDIANA, April, 1973.) On March 10, 1802, he was appointed Surveyor of Lands of St. Clair County by William Henry Harrison, the Governor of Indiana Territory.

The Old Northwest Territory was divided into Ohio Territory and Indiana Territory in 1800. Until 1805, when Michigan Territory was erected, Indiana Territory thus included all the vast area now comprising the States of Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota. In 1809 Illinois Territory was set off. In 1802, when Wilson became its Surveyor, St. Clair County comprised much of Southern Illinois.

In 1805 William Wilson was one of three rugged frontiersmen with surveyor experience who blazed a trace from Tanner's Creek, which empties into the Ohio River at Jeffersonville, to the Central Indiana area which later included Indianapolis. With Wilson was an uncle of William Hendricks, the Madison man who became Indiana's second elected Governor in 1822. On that far-ranging expedition William Wilson prospected in present-day Morgan County as well as in Marion County. With remarkable foresight he envisioned, at least partly, the eventual importance of what is now America's eleventh largest city.

It is obvious that William Wilson was a leader in many ways on the frontier. In 1807 Governor Harrison appointed him to be Justice of the Peace for Dearborn County. Then from 1820 to 1822 he served as Justice of the Peace in his new town of Napoleon, being succeeded by his friend, David E. Hendricks. From 1821 to 1828 Wilson was U.S. Postmaster at Napoleon.

After the victory in the WAR OF 1812 and the LOUISIANA PURCHASE assured United States supremacy on the new Continent, it was obvious that the tide of progress depended only upon the continued extension of the frontier. William Wilson went with his father and several friends to explore Morgan County again, this time in the vicinity of what later became the towns of Brooklyn and Waverly. When the site of the new State Capital was selected in 1820, one of the three areas considered was near Waverly.

It was logical that the frontier pathfinders should thus proceed into Central Indiana. Already two important pioneer traces converged near Waverly. And certainly the trail-blazing by William Wilson in 1805 has been neglected or ignored by numerous 20th Century specialists on Indiana history.

The Berry Trace had been marked out about 1808 by Captain John (Richard) Berry. It started at Napoleon and ran Westward to the Flatrock River about nine miles North of the present city of Columbus, the Bartholomew County seat. There it merged with the Old Indian Trail which crossed the Ohio River at the Falls Cities, and proceeded Northward to the junction of Fall Creek and the West Fork of White River (Indianapolis). The original trail then connected with the Delaware Indian towns on the Upper White and the Upper Wabash Rivers. (See OUTDOOR INDIANA, September, 1973)

Berry was born in Pennsylvania in 1777 and as a young man settled near Jeffersonville in Indiana Territory. In 1804 he was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Clark County militia, and four years later moved Northward into present-day Jackson County.

There were only three settlements (Haw Patch, Jonesville and Flat Rock) when Bartholomew County was created in 1819. It was named for Joseph Bartholomew, who was a Colonel when he was wounded at the BATTLE OF TIPPECANOE in 1811. He commanded the expedition of Indiana Militia in 1813 which marched from Fort Vallonia against hostile Indian towns on the Mississinewa River. He was one of the three Hoosiers who cast the new State's first votes in the Electoral College--for President James Monroe in 1816.

In 1819 Berry built a cabin at the North edge of Bartholomew County a mile below the present community of Edinburgh at the mouth of Sugar Creek where it joins Blue River. There he operated a ferry boat across Blue River, performing an essential service for the increasing number of settlers coming northward from the Falls.

The Berry ferry also was near the Trace blazed in 1818 by Jacob Wetzel (Whetzel) Northwestward from Somerset (close by Laurel) in Franklin County to Waverly in Morgan County. The Wetzel Trace crossed the Berry Trace near the present suburban community of Greenwood. (See OUTDOOR INDIANA, November, 1970.)

The Wetzel Trace forded Blue River (North of present-day Shelbyville) where James Wilson had a trading post (1818), the first settler habitation in Shelby County. Although James Wilson had a son named Isaac, his father, William Wilson, had come to Franklin County, Indiana, from Virginia. Apparently the families were not related. The village of Marion (Noah) developed around the James Wilson trading post.

Being Northwest of Brookville, where a thriving Federal Land Office was opened in 1818, the Wetzel Trace was the route for numerous homesteading families as they moved into present-day Rush, Shelby, Johnson and Morgan Counties. However, the selection of Indianapolis as the new State Capital altered all the previous settler traffic patterns.

The Brookville Road was projected to the North of the Wetzel Trace after it left Laurel. (The present route of U.S. Highway 52 by-passes Laurel from Northwest of Metamora to Andersonville.) In addition to this popular Brookville-Indianapolis pike, after 1830 the new State-constructed Michigan Road brought traffic from Madison to Indianapolis via Napoleon, Greensburg and Shelbyville.

The original route of the Michigan Road, going South from Napoleon, took a sharp turn past the present Lutheran Cemetery and proceeded due South. It then passed through Otter Village (now extinct), to Poston (now called Dabney), and through Marion (now New Marion). It joined the present U.S. Highway 421 near the North segment of the Jefferson Proving Ground fence, and then ran Southward to Madison's Courthouse Square, about as it does today.

Captain Berry, always the frontiersman, moved again in 1821 to the old Delaware Indian town of Anderson. When Madison County was created in 1823, Berry gave land to establish the county seat at Anderson. He operated a tavern in the new community and was Justice of the Peace. But as the population grew the old woodsman was increasingly uncomfortable. He moved on Northward to Huntington, where he died in 1835.

Explorers and trace blazers such as Berry utilized trails already well-worn by Indian moccasins, adapting them however to the necessity for getting settlers' wagons through the wilderness timber, around the steepest hills, and across streams. The Old Indian Trail from the Ohio River Falls is now the pattern for Interstate Highway 65 between Indianapolis and Louisville, and before that was the route of U.S. Highway 31, and of the JEFFERSONVILLE & INDIANAPOLIS RAILWAY. (See OUTDOOR INDIANA, November, 1969.)

Jonathan Jennings, Indiana's first State Governor, utilized this trail when he went from the State Capital to Corydon in 1820 to meet the other members of the State Capital Commission at William Conner's trading post near Noblesville. That eager opportunist, John Tipton, accompanied Jennings and in his Journal carefully recorded details of the trip. (Tipton, breveted at the BATTLE OF TIPPECANOE when superiors were killed, eventually became a United States Senator, 1832-1839. He was a leader in pushing the successful Presidential candidacy of William Henry Harrison in 1840.)

The original Indian trail passed near Waynesville (between Seymour and Columbus) and crossed the Driftwood River (On-quah-sah-quan) near Columbus.

It crossed Blue River at the later site of Berry's cabin and then entered present-day Johnson County.

A branch of the Indian trail led up Sugar Creek and another up Young's Creek. Such switches, invariably following a valley, were made-to-order paths for Hoosier settlers.

Describing how he moved his family from Kentucky to Indianapolis in October, 1820, John H. B. Nowland recalled that they crossed the Ohio River at Ash's Ferry at the mouth of the Kentucky River. (This later was known as McKay's Ferry and was at the Indiana town of Lamb.) The Nowlands then plodded Northward through Versailles to Napoleon, where they "camped near the house of William Wilson. Here we bought corn and had it ground into meal on a small hand-mill belonging to Mr. Wilson. Here ended the road and commenced Berry's Trace, which had to be cut out before the large wagon could get along."

Nowland remembered that the next cabin was that of the Montgomery family, on the Flatrock River about nine miles north of Columbus, and then he came to the cabin of "Captain John Berry, father of Colonel Ninevah Berry, now of Madison County."

Having shot a deer in the forest when still young, Ninevah Berry slipped on a log and fell into a nearby creek. His father named the stream Ninevah Creek. It flows through the present Atterbury State Fish and Wildlife Area, as does Blue River.

When the Nowland family arrived in Indianapolis on November 4 they were greeted by Isaac Wilson, the father of William.

Differing from his father's decision to remain in Central Indiana in 1816, William Wilson chose to return to Ripley County to establish NAPOLIEN. Yet there continued to be strong ties between the two neighborhoods.

William Major was appointed Territorial Judge of Dearborn County on March 7, 1803, and served until he was succeeded by William Wilson on January 6, 1814. Major became one of the founders of Morgan County with Isaac Wilson.

William Hendricks was Speaker of the Fifth Indiana Territorial House of Representatives in 1814. Then he was Secretary of the General Assembly when on June 10, 1816, at Corydon it petitioned for Statehood.

Later that year he was elected the first member of the United States House of Representatives from the new State of Indiana. He was Governor of Indiana from 1822 to 1825, and a United States Senator from 1825 to 1837.

Members of the Hendricks family joined the Wilsons and Majors in Morgan County and helped to establish Martinsville as a center for mineral spas.

William Wilson himself moved from Napoleon to Morgan County in 1828, buying land near holdings of the Hendricks family on Indian Creek two miles South of Martinsville. He promptly built a water mill which served the area until after the CIVIL WAR. He also was a famed wagoner and horse breeder. He died on December 20, 1838, and was buried at the Thomas Hendricks homestead four miles from Martinsville's Courthouse Square. His neighbors called him "Ripley Bill" and "Hero Bill".

William Wilson's widow, Frances, helped to organize the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Martinsville. However, she soon returned to Napoleon after 1838, where she married Edward McKee.

William Wilson was sagacious in locating NAPOLIAN. The pioneer Chamber's Trace ran Northwest from Indian Creek in Switzerland County through Napolian toward Greensburg, in Decatur County. By 1821 there was once-a-week round-trip horseback mail service from Vevay to Napoleon, Cross Plains and Versailles. After 1834 Napoleon was a key stop on the Cincinnati to Indianapolis stage route. It ran through Cheviot, Cleves, Lawrenceburg, Manchester, Napoleon, Greensburg, St. Omer, and Shelbyville.

A new State Road was built from Vevay to Napoleon in 1825-1827, via Mt. Sterling and Versailles. Five years later the Michigan Road was begun from Madison through Napoleon to Indianapolis, Logansport, South Bend and Michigan City.

There were early turnpikes from Aurora, Lawrenceburg and Brookville to Napoleon. A traveller in Southwestern Indiana in the first two decades after 1820 who asked directions was frequently told, "Well, you go to Napoleon, and then you head North." Or it could be East, South or West, or any other direction, even up or down.

Just seven days after NAPOLIAN was platted, William Wilson started selling town lots. On February 16, 1820, George Craig of Vevay bought 32 lots. He also owned more than 400 acres nearby, beginning with a purchase on April 30, 1818.

Craig had come to Switzerland County in 1806, and in 1809 he bought 432 acres in what is now Craig Township. His children were born in a blockhouse he built there. He built a water mill on Laughery Creek in 1817 and began operating river boats and conducting numerous business enterprises.

In 1821 Craig constructed the first Ripley County Courthouse at Versailles. (See OUTDOOR INDIANA, July, 1972.) He represented Ripley and Switzerland Counties in the Indiana Senate from 1822 to 1824 and was a lay Baptist minister.

One of George Craig's uncles, George Walton of Georgia, was a signer of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. Among his children were Mary Jane Eggleston, the mother of Edward and George Carey Eggleston, renowned authors. (See OUTDOOR INDIANA, October 1972.) Another daughter was Nancy, who married Miles Mendenhall of Napoleon. Born in Hudson County, New Jersey in 1804, Mendenhall came to Vevay with his parents in 1815.

In 1833 a cholera epidemic ravaged most Indiana towns on the Ohio River. George Craig was among the many victims. The bulk of his Napoleon property went to Nancy and Miles Mendenhall. One of their numerous business operations was Mendenhall's Inn at Napoleon. Another was a large general retail establishment called the Elkhorn Store.

Miles Mendenhall was an Associated Judge of Ripley County in 1839 and became Justice of the Peace in 1845. His son John, born at Napoleon in 1829, was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1851, and was a Colonel of the 1st Dragoons at the Battles of Shiloh, Stone River and Chickamauga.

Another original lot purchaser at Napoleon and a close friend of the Wilsons was William W. Wick, who had come to Indiana in 1819 and was promptly elected Clerk of the Indiana House of Representatives in 1820. The son of a Presbyterian

minister, as was Governor Jonathan Jennings, Wick was born at Canonsburg, in Western Pennsylvania, in 1796. Jennings also had studied at the famous Canonsburg Academy before coming to Charlestown, Indiana, to start his meteoric political career. (See OUTDOOR INDIANA, June, 1972.)

On April 25, 1822, aged 26, William W. Wick was chosen the presiding Judge of a frontier Circuit that included several newly organized Counties. His extensive travels from seat to seat were made on horseback. He was the first Judge who ever held court in Indianapolis, and when the seat of State Government was moved there in 1825 he was elected Indiana Secretary of State (1825-1829). He served in the United States Congress in 1831-1832.

"The First Judge of the New Purchase" died in 1868 and was buried at Franklin, in Johnson County.

Elias Conwell, born in Delaware in 1785, settled in Aurora, Indiana, in 1819. Then on September 24, 1821, Conwell bought 160 acres immediately North of Wilson Street at Napoleon. There he constructed a brick kiln, brewery and tanyard. Next he opened a popular store at Wilson and Versailles Streets.

Quickly attaining considerable wealth, Conwell bought four town lots and built a large brick home at the corner of Wilson and Madison Streets. It has long been a landmark on the old Michigan Road (now U.S. Highway 421).

Napoleon's status as a traffic hub soon prompted the erection of numerous Inns. Accommodations ranged from the most commodious for affluent stage coach passengers to the rough uncarpeted boards of the communal sleeping room where weary drovers lay down side by side in their road clothes and snored away through the hours of darkness.

Hogs, cattle and turkeys were all driven on foot to the river market and packing towns of Cincinnati, Lawrenceburg, Aurora, Vevay and Madison. The farmers and their sons would come from as far North as Shelby County. Their livestock was kept overnight in large pens at the corner of the Michigan Road and Main Street, and elsewhere nearby.

Elias Conwell operated one of these Napoleon Inns. So did Miles Mendenhall. There were the Central House, the Voshell Inn, the Marsh Inn, Gookins' Inn and Culver's Inn, as well as less stabilized hostleries.

Although Napoleon has been spared much of the razing which has been common in more populous communities in this Century, the decline of horse-drawn vehicles and the advent of the automobile brought neglect to many of its structures. Moreover, when the OHIO & MISSISSIPPI RAILWAY (Now the BALTIMORE & OHIO) was projected Westward from Cincinnati to St. Louis it not only bypassed Versailles but also Napoleon. As a result, Osgood-between Versailles and Napoleon-became Ripley County's "big railroad town."

The 1966 Indiana Sesquicentennial and Napoleon's own 1970 observance of its first 150 years brought the present citizens of Napoleon into the broadening stream of interest in historic restorations throughout Indiana. This restoration movement now is getting added emphasis as the Indiana American Revolution Bicentennial Commission spearheads plans for Hoosier observances from 1976 to 1983, just two Centuries after the AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

The old Central House on Napoleon's Main Street has been rescued and re-stored as a community building. Appropriately it is opposite the Napoleon Public School and its tree-shaded "campus". The Elias Conwell Home, now owned by Charles Youngman, retains its pioneer era sturdiness and charm. Other structures are enjoying the sort of renaissance which is being manifest in numerous Hoosier communities, and which will be discussed in the December issue of OUTDOOR INDIANA.

The next time you travel the 86 miles between Indianapolis and Madison, or you are headed from Vevay just 23 miles upriver from Madison, take the time to get out of your car and walk around Napoleon. It was, indeed, a strategic crossroads.

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An excellent article which again proves that George Cary Eggleston was right when he said- "First you go to Napoleon, etc."

John Mendenhall- could this be the same Captain John E. Mendenhall who massed his 58 guns at Stone's River to halt the Confederate attack when 1800 fell killed or wounded? "This abrupt turning of the fortune of battle was due entirely to Mendenhall's consecrated artillery- perhaps the outstanding instance of field combat in the Civil War where artillery was the decisive factor."

-editor

REPRODUCED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT BY THE INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE SARDINIA MILL
Razed After 150 Years

By Mrs. R. G. Horn

Demolition of the Sardinia Mill took place recently when a wrecker came in and pulled it down. While it had become a fire hazard, residents of the community were sorry to see the old landmark disappear.

It had served the surrounding community as an elevator for the past several years but it was a flour mill originally.

"The Mill", as it was familiarly called, was about 150 years old, and was located on lots 17 and 18 in Sardinia and had several acres of adjoining land granted by the United States with a certificate of entry to John Chambers, Aug. 18, 1832. The adjacent lands were divided and sold to various owners among whom were John Blankenship, John Ferran, Christopher Trimble. All of these names are familiar with the history of Sardinia, as they helped organize the Baptist church there. The Ferrans were carpenters and built several houses which are still used as homes in the town, although most of these have been remodeled.

During the history of the early years of the mill, it changed hands several times. A few of the early owners continue to be familiar names to some of the residents of Sardinia, as they are their ancestors. Such ancestral names as Seal, Gaston, Giles and Jerry Gant, Smith, Moore and Reiley besides the names mentioned above, all played a part in making the business of the mill to prosper.

SILVER CLOUD FLOUR

In 1865, Thomas and Hannah Smith purchased the mill and sold some of the additional lots until lots 17 and 18 became known as the location of the Sardinia Milling Company of Decatur County. The flour that was made there was named the Silver Cloud and White Lily, which was delivered in a one-horse spring wagon to various stores throughout the community. Later as volume increased, two horses and a wagon were used, until and after the railroad was built and flour was loaded on freight cars and shipped. During the hey-day of the flour mill, when George Claypole was owner, a spur of the railroad was built to the mill and the horses and wagons were no longer needed.

After the death of Thomas Smith and his wife, the Milling Company became the property of their children as heirs. They are: Louisa Smith Faulkner, William Smith, James Smith, Charles Smith, Mary Jane Smith Golay, Frederick Smith, Ruth Smith Gaston. Later, partial owners and proprietors were: Calvin Moore, John H. S. Reiley, then George Claypole, who sold it to Blish Milling Co. of Seymour being operated by Dick Shields.

The Smith Brothers, William, Charlie and Fred, became full owners in 1941, removing the flour mill machinery and operated it as an elevator. In 1946 the mill was purchased by the late Earl McGovern and son, John. After his death it was transferred to William Ogle and wife, Gladys, who operated it for several years, later selling it to Norman Sharp, who closed the operation of the mill in 1971. Max and Marcia Ogle then became owners and have continued as owners. The Ogles had the mill torn down, as it was no longer in condition to be used and was a fire hazard to the town.

-Greensburg Daily News

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Our Recording Secretary, Dale F. Parker, reports that "Several" have not paid their 1974 dues. Please check with him and avoid being delinquent.

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 3 - No. 60

Greensburg, Indiana

June 29, 1974

THE COURTHOUSE ISSUE

Is at a standstill, very much like the clock which doesn't run and doesn't chime any more. First the court room, then the roof and now the clock! Neglect like vandalism leads to the same end.

"Though this be madness, yet there is method in 't."

OCCASION: Summer meeting.

DATE: Sunday Afternoon,
July 7th, 1974
2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Fellowship Hall,
First Baptist Church
209 W. Washington St.
Greensburg, Indiana.

SPEAKER: Mr. Albert A. Hodge
Chairman Social Studies
Rushville High School.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

I. J. Isgrigg-Birmingham, Mich.
Miss Frieda Schatz- Indpls.
James Hellmich- Chicago
Mrs. Elizabeth Woodfill 796

Mr. Hodge was born in New Harmony and graduated from high school there. His mother's great-great grandmother arrived there on the "Boat Load of Knowledge" to teach in the experimental Schools of Robert Owen. A teacher at Rushville, Mr. Hodge was a Rector scholar at DePauw University and has a Master's degree from Indiana University.

INDIANA

Out thar in California
Whur everybody blows
'Bout their crops on climate,
En makin movie shows;
Whur everything is lovely
En th' goose iz hangin' high
Whur they say they sell for profit
'Most everything they buy;
Back here in Indianer
Th' place whur I wuz born
We raise fine hogs on cattle
En the world's prize winnin' corn;
Land et flows with milk and honey
This good old Hoosier state
We have great gobs of water
Don't have to irrigate!
We do have plenty of snow and ice
En winter makes us shake
But we'd ruther shake from coldness
Than a California quake;
Back home in Indianer,
Some folks hav made their dough,
En moved to California
En makes a splendid show'
But when we go to California
We'll only go tu see,
Back home in Indianer
Is good enough for me!

COME AND BRING A GUEST. EVERYBODY
IS WELCOME!!

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1973

President-----Dale G. Myers
1st V.P.-----Van P. Batterton
2nd V.P.-----Raymond Carr
Corresponding Secy.-----
Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale
710 N. Franklin St.,
Greensburg, Ind. 47240
Recording Secy.-----
Dale F. Parker
225 W. Washington St.
Greensburg, Ind. 47240
Treasurer-----Miss Alpha Thackory

-Roy C. Kanouse

MRS. CECIL W. MANN
HOLLYGLADE
Route 3, Sylva, N. C.

31 May 1974

Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale,
Corresponding Secretary
The Historical Society of Decatur County, Indiana
Greensburg, Indiana 42474

Dear Mrs. Lauderdale:

As the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tracy Powner, formerly of Greensburg, and the youngest known member of the line of William Henry Powner, born 13 May 1820, I have a few things which may be of interest to the Historical Society of Decatur County for the proposed museum.

Old timers may recall that William Henry Powner, my grandfather, was a teacher who taught his first school in Decatur County about a mile from the village where there was no school house. After a term in the country, he built a two-room frame school building at his own expense of about five hundred dollars, in Sardinia where pupils were said to come from miles around and where children from other counties were enrolled.

W. H. Powner was the first Decatur County Examiner for almost fourteen years as well as being elected the first Decatur County Superintendant in 1872. He organized the first County Institute in 1861.

His son, Charles Tracy Powner (Charlie) taught in the Greensburg Schools for many years and was an official Collector for the Indiana State Historical Library. After moving to Chicago, he established "The House of a Million Books" and together with his son, Willard Earle Powner established the first nation-wide chain of antiquarian bookstores.

The few remaining items I have which may be of interest to the Society are:

A brochure written by the late Samuel Putnam describing the Powner Book and Publishing Companies. Later, I shall try to send some of the books published by them.

A hand woven coverlet, Jacquard style of weaving, with 1847 woven in. This belonged to our maternal grandmother, Liza Jane McCarter of Green Oak, Ind. (near Rochester), wife of John W. Davis of Rochester, Ind., parents of our mother, Olive Rebecca Davis (Mrs. Charles Tracy Powner.)

A few characteristic clothes of the various times.

I would like some assurance of your interest in receiving these rare items and that they will be kept safe and cared for, especially the coverlet and the brochure of which there are only two known copies.

With my very best wishes for the success of the Society and Museum.

Sincerely yours,

HELEN DAVIS POWNER MANN
(Mrs. Cecil W.)

THE SARDINIA MILL
Razed After 150 Years

By Mrs. R. G. Horn

Demolition of the Sardinia Mill took place recently when a wrecker came in and pulled it down. While it had become a fire hazard, residents of the community were sorry to see the old landmark disappear.

It had served the surrounding community as an elevator for the past several years but it was a flour mill originally.

"The Mill", as it was familiarly called, was about 150 years old, and was located on lots 17 and 18 in Sardinia and had several acres of adjoining land granted by the United States with a certificate of entry to John Chambers, Aug. 18, 1832. The adjacent lands were divided and sold to various owners among whom were John Blankenship, John Ferran, Christopher Trimble. All of these names are familiar with the history of Sardinia, as they helped organize the Baptist church there. The Ferrans were carpenters and built several houses which are still used as homes in the town, although most of these have been remodeled.

During the history of the early years of the mill, it changed hands several times. A few of the early owners continue to be familiar names to some of the residents of Sardinia, as they are their ancestors. Such ancestral names as Seal, Gaston, Giles and Jerry Gant, Smith, Moore and Reiley besides the names mentioned above, all played a part in making the business of the mill to prosper.

SILVER CLOUD FLOUR

In 1865, Thomas and Hannah Smith purchased the mill and sold some of the additional lots until lots 17 and 18 became known as the location of the Sardinia Milling Company of Decatur County. The flour that was made there was named the Silver Cloud and White Lily, which was delivered in a one-horse spring wagon to various stores throughout the community. Later as volume increased, two horses and a wagon were used, until and after the railroad was built and flour was loaded on freight cars and shipped. During the hey-day of the flour mill, when George Claypole was owner, a spur of the railroad was built to the mill and the horses and wagons were no longer needed.

After the death of Thomas Smith and his wife, the Milling Company became the property of their children as heirs. They are: Louisa Smith Faulkner, William Smith, James Smith, Charles Smith, Mary Jane Smith Golay, Frederick Smith, Ruth Smith Gaston. Later, partial owners and proprietors were: Calvin Moore, John H. S. Reiley, then George Claypole, who sold it to Blish Milling Co. of Seymour being operated by Dick Shields.

The Smith Brothers, William, Charlie and Fred, became full owners in 1941, removing the flour mill machinery and operated it as an elevator. In 1946 the mill was purchased by the late Earl McGovern and son, John. After his death it was transferred to William Ogle and wife, Gladys, who operated it for several years, later selling it to Norman Sharp, who closed the operation of the mill in 1971. Max and Marcia Ogle then became owners and have continued as owners. The Ogles had the mill torn down, as it was no longer in condition to be used and was a fire hazard to the town.

-Greensburg Daily News

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Our Recording Secretary, Dale F. Parker, reports that "Several" have not paid their 1974 dues. Please check with him and avoid being delinquent.

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 3 - No. 60

Greensburg, Indiana

June 29, 1974

THE COURTHOUSE ISSUE

Is at a standstill, very much like the clock which doesn't run and doesn't chime any more. First the court room, then the roof and now the clock! Neglect like vandalism leads to the same end.

"Though this be madness, yet there is method in 't."

OCCASION: Summer meeting.

DATE: Sunday Afternoon,
July 7th, 1974
2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Fellowship Hall,
First Baptist Church
209 W. Washington St.
Greensburg, Indiana.

SPEAKER: Mr. Albert A. Hodge
Chairman Social Studies
Rushville High School.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

I. J. Isgrigg-Birmingham, Mich.
Miss Frieda Schatz- Indpls.
James Hellmich- Chicago
Mrs. Elizabeth Woodfill 796

Mr. Hodge was born in New Harmony and graduated from high school there. His mother's great-great grandmother arrived there on the "Boat Load of Knowledge" to teach in the experimental Schools of Robert Owen. A teacher at Rushville, Mr. Hodge was a Rector scholar at DePauw University and has a Master's degree from Indiana University.

INDIANA

Out thar in California
Whur everybody blows
'Bout their crops on climate,
En makin movie shows;
Whur everything is lovely
En th' goose iz hangin' high
Whur they say they sell for profit
'Most everything they buy;
Back here in Indianer
Th' place whur I wuz born
We raise fine hogs on cattle
En the world's prize winnin' corn;
Land et flows with milk and honey
This good old Hoosier state
We have great gobs of water
Don't have to irrigate!
We do have plenty of snow and ice
En winter makes us shako
But we'd ruther shake from coldness
Than a California quake;
Back home in Indianer,
Some folks hav made their dough,
En moved to California
En makes a splendid show'
But when we go to California
We'll only go tu see,
Back home in Indianer
Is good enough for me!

COME AND BRING A GUEST. EVERYBODY
IS WELCOME!!

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1973

President-----Dale G. Myers
1st V.P.-----Van P. Batterton
2nd V.P.-----Raymond Carr
Corresponding Secy.-----
Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale
710 N. Franklin St.,
Greensburg, Ind. 47240
Recording Secy.-----
Dale F. Parker
225 W. Washington St.
Greensburg, Ind. 47240
Treasurer-----Miss Alpha Thackory

-Roy C. Kanouse

MRS. CECIL W. MANN
HOLLYGLADE
Route 3, Sylva, N. C.

31 May 1974

Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale,
Corresponding Secretary
The Historical Society of Decatur County, Indiana
Greensburg, Indiana 42474

Dear Mrs. Lauderdale:

As the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tracy Powner, formerly of Greensburg, and the youngest known member of the line of William Henry Powner, born 13 May 1820, I have a few things which may be of interest to the Historical Society of Decatur County for the proposed museum.

Old timers may recall that William Henry Powner, my grandfather, was a teacher who taught his first school in Decatur County about a mile from the village where there was no school house. After a term in the country, he built a two-room frame school building at his own expense of about five hundred dollars, in Sardinia where pupils were said to come from miles around and where children from other counties were enrolled.

W. H. Powner was the first Decatur County Examiner for almost fourteen years as well as being elected the first Decatur County Superintendant in 1872. He organized the first County Institute in 1861.

His son, Charles Tracy Powner (Charlie) taught in the Greensburg Schools for many years and was an official Collector for the Indiana State Historical Library. After moving to Chicago, he established "The House of a Million Books" and together with his son, Willard Earle Powner established the first nation-wide chain of antiquarian bookstores.

The few remaining items I have which may be of interest to the Society are:

A brochure written by the late Samuel Putnam describing the Powner Book and Publishing Companies. Later, I shall try to send some of the books published by them.

A hand woven coverlet, Jacquard style of weaving, with 1847 woven in. This belonged to our maternal grandmother, Liza Jane McCartor of Green Oak, Ind. (near Rochester), wife of John W. Davis of Rochester, Ind., parents of our mother, Olive Rebecca Davis (Mrs. Charles Tracy Powner.)

A few characteristic clothes of the various times.

I would like some assurance of your interest in receiving these rare items and that they will be kept safe and cared for, especially the coverlet and the brochure of which there are only two known copies.

With my very best wishes for the success of the Society and Museum.

Sincerely yours,

HELEN DAVIS POWNER MANN
(Mrs. Cecil W.)

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 3 - No. 61

Greensburg, Indiana

October 1, 1974

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"Council members approved an appropriation of \$25,000 to permit resurfacing the entire roof of the courthouse and to make some improvements with a view of screening the noise in the circuit courtroom together with some improvements in furnishings and painting the interior of the second floor."

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NEW MEMBERS

Nancio Hollnich
Both Ann Hollnich
Mrs. Dale Espie
Ralston Gray, Elgin, Ill.
Shirley G. Wiote, New Point
Mrs. Freda Boyd, Hamilton, Ohio 902

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OCCASION: Fall Meeting

DATE: Sunday afternoon
October 6, 1974
2:00 P.M..

PLACE Chapel
First Baptist Church
209 W. Washington St.
Greensburg, Indiana

SPEAKER: Rev. Charles Baxter
First Baptist Church

Rev. Baxter recently completed a trip to Africa and will share it with us.

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BRING A GUEST.

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The only school I can remember in all the region round about, was one which our great-uncle, Captain Lowry, had built on the outskirts of his own farm, to be used rent free by any wandering schoolmaster who might succeed in securing "scholars" enough to justify him in keeping school.

George Cary Eggleston

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INDPLS.-CIN. & LAF. R. R.

East Bound

	<u>No. 1</u>	<u>No. 2</u>	<u>No. 3</u>
Indpls.	3:00 AM	10:15 AM	7:00 PM
St. P.	4:16	11:45	8:45
Adams	4:25	11:56	8:57
Gbg.	4:37	12:08	9:11
McCoy	4:46	12:17	9:22
S.Xing	4:53	12:24	9:30
N.Point	4:58	12:29	9:35
Cin.	7:35 AM	3:15 PM	12:40 AM

West Bound

(also)

GBG STANDARD

March 11, 1870

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DAILY JOURNAL
Indianapolis
Monday morning
July 13, 1863

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Down past the toll gate where a woman steps from the door just as your horse breasts the bar across the highway - a woman who looks at you mutely till you jingle your coin and force her into speech by the query "How much?" "How far?" is her answer, and she takes your pennies in a weary way and lets you pass. Down past the old quarry where three men were killed one summer day, and where their ghosts still linger about the awful rocks that crushed their bodies; down across the little bridge, over the Bennett Hill - and here is Harris City. Not a real metropolis, you understand; only a little group of houses about another quarry, only a crowded store and a little shop, only a cluster of derrick booms and some waiting cars with loads of limestone. Off to the right when you strike the creek, along its bank till you pass "suspension bridge" - a swinging foot-path from bluff to bluff - around to the left this time with the bottom lands on the one hand and the bulging barns on the other. See the waving banks of red bud and the snowy keaps of buckeye blossoms. See the beds of sweet wood, violets and the tiny cups of harebells. Fleck the rank ferns with the tip of your whip and turn sharp to the right again. Here we leave the creek road and clamber into the steep clay hills. On to the west for a mile or more, then turn to the south and that is the road to "the center".

THE CHICAGO HERALD
MONDAY, MAY 11, 1891

ed -Re the Center of Population
dedicated in 1891

A Civil War Soldier's RECIPE FOR THE ITCH:

"Take one wine glass of fresh un-slaked lime, two of flowers of sulphur, and ten of water. Put in a porcelain kettle and place it over the fire, stirring it all the time with a wooden paddle until the sulphur disappears on the surface of the water. Then bottle it up closely and it is ready for use. Wash the patient well with warm water, then saturate every part of the body with the fluid; in half an hour wash off in warm water again. Put on clean linen and you are cured."

* * *

"I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past."--

Patrick Henry 1775

THE LINCOLNS

There are today (February 12, 1961) only three living descendents of Abraham Lincoln, his great grandchildren, all childless and all past middle age. The oldest, Lincoln Isham, 68, is a retired investment broker living in Dorset, Vt. The second, Miss Mary Lincoln Beckwith, 62, raises beef cattle at Hildene, the summer estate established by her father near Manchester, Vt. the youngest, Robert Lincoln Beckwith, 56, is a gentleman farmer of Tidewater, Va.

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THE BULLETIN

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October 1, 1974

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One of Nature's Beauty Spots

There are a thousand pleasant homes in Greensburg. All about it are hills and valleys, orchards and forests - "fair as the garden of the Lord". Out to the south the turnpike runs past other homes, under the shade of beech and maple trees, between the fields that never failed the husbandman, bonding a little first to the right, then to the left, now in the low lands, then leading you over the hills of delight - that is the road to "the center".

Down past the toll gate where a woman steps from the door just as your horse breasts the bar across the highway - a woman who looks at you mutely till you jingle your coin and force her into speech by the query "How much?" "How far?" is her answer, and she takes your pennies in a weary way and lets you pass. Down past the old quarry where three men were killed one summer day, and where their ghosts still linger about the awful rocks that crushed their bodies; down across the little bridge, over the Bennett Hill - and here is Harris City. Not a real metropolis, you understand; only a little group of houses about another quarry, only a crowded store and a little shop, only a cluster of derrick boons and some waiting cars with loads of limestone. Off to the right when you strike the creek, along its bank till you pass "suspension bridge" - a swinging foot-path from bluff to bluff - around to the left this time with the bottom lands on the one hand and the bulging barns on the other. See the waving banks of red bud and the snowy keaps of buckeye blossoms. See the beds of sweet wood, violets and the tiny cups of harebells. Flock the rank ferns with the tip of your whip and turn sharp to the right again. Here we leave the creek road and clamber into the steep clay hills. On to the west for a mile or more, then turn to the south and that is the road to "the center".

THE CHICAGO HERALD
MONDAY, MAY 11, 1891

ed -Re the Center of Population
dedicated in 1891

A Civil War Soldier's RECIPE FOR THE ITCH:

"Take one wine glass of fresh un-slaked lime, two of flowers of sulphur, and ten of water. Put in a porcelain kettle and place it over the fire, stirring it all the time with a wooden paddle until the sulphur disappears on the surface of the water. Then bottle it up closely and it is ready for use. Wash the patient well with warm water, then saturate every part of the body with the fluid; in half an hour wash off in warm water again. Put on clean linen and you are cured."

* * *

"I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past."--

Patrick Henry 1775

THE LINCOLNS

There are today (February 12, 1961) only three living descendents of Abraham Lincoln, his great grandchildren, all childless and all past middle age. The oldest, Lincoln Isham, 68, is a retired investment broker living in Dorset, Vt. The second, Miss Mary Lincoln Beckwith, 62, raises beef cattle at Hildene, the summer estate established by her father near Manchester, Vt. the youngest, Robert Lincoln Beckwith, 56, is a gentleman farmer of Tidewater, Va.

* * *

DISADVANTAGES OF THE GRADED
SYSTEM IN OUR INTERIOR TOWNSHIPS
VERY TRIFLING-

THE DECATUR NEWS

June 7, 1882

The only disadvantage of any moment to be apprehended in introducing the graded system into all our townships, arises from the distance, which pupils from the frontiers of the townships must travel, in order to reach the center High School.... In summer and in autumn the distance is no objection. The walk of two or three miles would injure no one, not even the delicate female. It would, in most cases, prove an advantage to the physical energy and mental acuteness of the scholars..... In winter the females might find the walking inconvenient. But among our rural population there is no want of means of conveyance. In every farm yard there is a plenty of horses, and mules, to carry all the children to school. Should the farmer have to harness up his team, and take his children three miles to school, every morning, and every evening to bring them home, he would do it at much less expense, than he would incur by sending them to a private school.

-First Annual Report-Supt. Public
Instruction for the State of
Indiana-December 1852

* * *

CENTENNIAL

The recent centennial of the Adams Methodist Church and the reenactment of its organization speaks eloquently for its having survived these hundred years. It is documented history that the first minister was the Reverend Brockway of neighboring Milford, who on this memorable occasion drove one horse (he had two) six miles over muddy roads to keep his appointment. Attending were the Deems, the Ryans and the Youngs, the seven charter members. Who is to know at the bi-centennial, who are the Deems, the Ryans and the Youngs of this present day, that have preserved so well their heritage? Only the records will tell.

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June 12, 1882

9:30 P.M.

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Jake Emmert

Len Russell,

Operator

SOUND OF AN INLAND TOWN

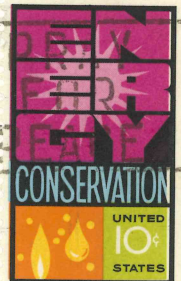
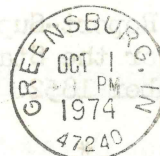
Apropos of the flood of 1913

If I could write a poem like Jim Riley used to write,
If I could catch his rhyming scheme in which the words unite
With a moving kind of music that'll start your sluggish blood--
I would sing a song of Greensburg where we didn't have no flood.
The scenery 'long ole Gas Creek don't compare with Brandywine,
And we're glad the blooming Wabash and Ohio, broad and fine,
And the other raging rivers are miles and miles away--
Rather be an "inland town"---kind of like it thataway.

A little taste of trouble 'mong our neighbors, left and right,
Helps us 'preciate our home town more'n oratory might.
When the trains are kind of backward and we're missing half our mail,
When the juice is off the cable and the rust is on the rail,
Then we realize the blessing's and the comfort's that we've got---
There may be places just as good, but there's heaps of them that's not.
We've counted all our noses and we've called our little roll.
And there's nary one a missing, not a single blooming soul.
Now the streams are in their channels and the trains are coming back,
and the juice has hit the trolley and the rust is off the track.

-Smiley Fowler

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF DECATUR COUNTY
GREENSBURG, INDIANA



57

Mrs. C. E. Loucks
332 N. Jackson
Greensburg, Ind 47240

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 3 - No. 62

Greensburg, Indiana

December 7, 1974

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Dr. Clarence C. Atkins
Mr. Louis Remmler
Mrs. Louis (Mabel) Remmler 805

COMMITTEES

Decorations: M/M Charles Walls
M/M Russell Powner
Display: M/M Van P. Batterton
M/M Raymond Carr

THE DISPLAY- Always a nice feature of the meeting. Please bring any thing of interest and share it with others. Identify it with your name to give added interest. The responsibility is yours, please note.

Nominations: Mr. Willard Anderson, Ch.
M/M George Greer
Mrs. Dorothy Shannon
Mrs. Vida Loucks

Audit: M/M Donald Galbraith

Calling: Miss Gladys Aldrich
Mrs. C.W. Bartholomew
Mrs. Frank Clark
Mrs. Omer Fateley
Mrs. Lavelle Hamilton
Miss Phoebe Jane Harrison
Mrs. Mabel Hurt
Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale
Mrs. Frank Marlin
Mrs. Wilma McGee
Mrs. Charles Osburn
Mrs. Francis W. Reed
Mrs. Hartford Sallee
Mrs. Herbert C. Taylor
Miss Marguerite Tillson
Miss Florine Tillson
Mrs. Leah Weston
Miss Victoria Woolverton
Miss Alpha E. Thackery
Mrs. Grace Lasley
Mrs. Norman Billieu

OCCASION: SIXTEENTH ANNUAL DINNER
MEETING AND ELECTION OF
OFFICERS

DATE: Wednesday night, December
18, 1974 at 6:00 P. M.

DINNER: SMORGASBUFFET- Take your
choice and all that you
can eat. \$3.00 payable
at the door.

PLACE: Fellowship Hall
Presbyterian Church
N.E. Corner Public Square
Greensburg, Indiana
Entrance on Washington St.

SPEAKER: Rev. Frank Guyatt of Dublin,
Indiana

Rev. Guyatt is a Quaker
minister and has appeared
in this county many times.
His program will be a
narration with pictures
of the coronation of Queen
Elizabeth II and is worth
while.

An effort has been made to contact all
members who live in the county and in
the event you haven't been called,
phone Dale G. Myers at 663-4370 not
later than Dec. 16th for your dinner
reservation, this in all fairness to
the caterer. THIS IS A MUST!

SAVE POSTAGE- Be prepared to renew
your membership at the dinner meeting.
No increase in price. Annual Dues
\$1.00 payable in advance.
Be an EARLY BIRD!

If you are unable to partake of the dinner, feel free to come anyway.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

* * *

SPEAKING OF TORNADOES-

The tornado which swept across the South half of Decatur County on April 3, 1974 was preceded by one of equally tragic results in 1877. My father related to me what he had heard his parents say, he being only a year old at the time. My grand-father's farm was located four or five miles Southwest of St. Paul in Noble township. A 40 acres woods on the farm laid about 30 rods Northwest of the house, and while the storm flattened a strip of large trees throughout the woods from West to East, a cup of water resting on a window sill was not disturbed. It was believed at the time, that the storm formed in Southwest Shelby county, between Flat Rock and Edinburg. As the tornado entered Decatur County it's effect was tragic. About a mile South of St. Paul, my brother-in-law Kenneth Cook, tells me that his great-grandmother Reiger, elderly and bed-fast at the time, was picked up by the storm when the house where she lay was torn apart, and carried away. Her body was never found. Another person in the same community was also killed. The late Daniel Lorrigan is authority for this statement. Michael Merrlich, more familiarly known as Dutch Mike, was drawn up and carried for a mile. His body however was recovered. He is buried in Union Chapel Cemetery two miles South of St. Paul. His monument is inscribed as follows:-

MICHAEL MERRLICH

DIED IN A HURRICANE

JUNE 30, 1877

AGED 55 YRS.

-Lawrence Hendrickson

* * *

"The Future blooms out of the past as a rose blossoms from the stem."

Did you know that soy beans, one of our major farm crops, was introduced in Decatur County by John W. Crise of Forest Hill? He also raised and showed fancy chickens. His D&M POULTRY TABLETS were a popular remedy in his day.

* * *

WANTED: More contributors for future issues of the BULLETIN. Since the EDITOR (after 62 issues) has not found a successor, he is making this appeal. Home spun stories particularly those never previously published are the most desirable. By way of suggestion, he would appreciate a story, a lead or information on any of the following-

The Michigan Road
What Members Collect
Why Wood Paving Blocks Were Used
Place Names in Decatur County
Notables Buried in South Park
Out-of-town Members- Their
Decatur Co. Ties
Balloon Ascensions-Local
Sandusky In Its Heyday, etc.

Write in your own words and the staff (?) will iron out the rough spots.

* * *

The EDITOR would be remiss if at this year end, he did not acknowledge and express his appreciation for the nice neat work of Mrs. Pauline Wheeler. Hers is the job of typing the stencils and "running" them through the mimeograph. Lastly but not least is the help of Dale Parker with those four hundred labels, along with that of the four or five members of the mailing crew - always an afternoons chore.

-EDITOR

And remember- if you see it in the BULLETIN- its so!

* GREETINGS OF THE SEASON *

* AND
* BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR *

A WINTERIN' OUT

My father tells this story well,
for it was years ago,
And happened when he was a lad
and things were mighty slow.

Dad was born in New Point town
the house 'bout two rooms,
And folks would come to set a spell
and stayed till Heaven knows.

In them days work was scarce
and most wuz mighty poor.
And oft you braved the winter through
shussin wolves from away your door.

And women, cold, would hustle out
into the knee deep snow.
To dig a cabbage from a cache
buried deep some months ago.

The winter that he tells about
wuz worse than all the rest
And findin food to warm your gut
put many to the test.

Twas then this here fellow, Jud,
came into town one day
Tellin how his wife and him
had nothin left for pay.

Not even any spuds or eggs
and things looked mighty gray
And seein how they was out of feed
there was nuthin left to do
But raffle off their horse and cow
er they'd be starvin too!

He came shufflin into Metz's Store
where we wuz all a settin
A cryin bout how bad things were
and how hungry they were gettin.

And when he told his tale of woe
us other guys felt full and fed
And reckoned how as we could help
Jud, to get hisself some bread.

So, Jud, he said he'd sell us all
given thanks right then and there
Chances two for just two bits
on his cow and his old mare.

And feelin sorta bad for him
we wuz all too glad to pay
A seein how some one would
come out with a cow and dray.

So he sold us chances one and all
and folks were chompin to see
Who the winner of the nag and cow
would soon turn up to be.

And happy, Jud, he bought his bread
and store vittles galore
And sed how he'd post the winner
right there in Metz's store.

Now see these winters then wuz long
and not too right amuzin
And this really giv us all
a needed fun transfusion.

So Jud he went back home out there
quite a spell from town
And we were all settin, waitin
to see who luck would crown

Well one day went by, a week
and much, oh many more
But Jud never even showed
at Metz's New Point Store.

And the deep snow slowed and went
and the rains of spring did fall
But Jud he never showed us
his face in town at all.

Then one fine day late in May
he came in a lookin real durn good
Like as if he'd been full fed
And had a middlin livlihood.

Well we'd all just been waitin
for many moons by now
To find out whose two bits
had won that horse and cow.

So we all rush to quiz him
"Where the heck, Jud, have you been
While we wuz a settin, a waitin
to see whose chance did win."

And lookin right at each of us
a real straight in the eye
Jud said well I'll tell you boys
If you wanta know just why.

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Operator

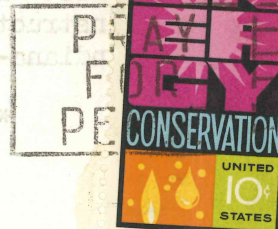
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I would sing a song of Greensburg where we didn't have no flood.
The scen'ry 'long ole Gas Creek don't compare with Brandywine,
And we're glad the bloomin' Wabash and Ohio, broad and fine,
And the other ragin' rivers are miles and miles away--
Ruther be an "inland town"---kind o' like it thataway.
A little taste o' trouble 'mong our neighbors, left and right,
Helps us 'preciate our home town more'n oratory night.
When the trains are kind o' backward and we're missin' half our mail,
When the juice is off the cable and the rust is on the rail,
Then we realize the blessin's and the comfort's that we've got---
There may be places just as good, but there's heaps o' them that's not.
We hev counted all our noses and we've called our little roll.
And there's nary one a missin', not a single bloomin' soul.
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and the juice has hit the trolley and the rust is off the track.

-Smiley Fowler-

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF DECATUR COUNTY
GREENSBURG, INDIANA



629 630
Mr & Mrs Dale G. Myers
220 E. Walnut St.
Greensburg, Ind 47240